

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 12, 15-20 and 22 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11, 21 and 23-29 are canceled without prejudice by this Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; claims 1-11, 21, 23 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Schemerhorn et al. (note this should be under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) not 102(b)); and claims 12, 15-20 and 22 were allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. To place this application in condition for allowance, claims 1-11, 21 and 23-29 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections in the outstanding Office Action are moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, David A. Bilodeau, at the telephone number listed below.

Application No. 09/985,919
Amendment Dated April 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 31, 2003

K-0341

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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